

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VALIDATING AN IDENTITY**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention is directed to a methodology for validating user identities. A user telephone number is registered, and in a subsequent communications link, the registered telephone number is obtained. A user may provide the registered telephone number by directly inputting the number via the communications link, or the

5 registered number may be obtained from signaling information provided in connection with the establishment of the communications link. A security code established at the time of registration of the user telephone number, and associated with that number, is then obtained from the user via the communications link. After both the registered telephone number and the security code have been obtained, they

10 are processed in a manner to identify a validation status of the user.